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The CF Snapshot is a monthly e-newsletter for Iowa Community Foundations and Affiliates. If you have information you would like included, please [email Michele Walstrom](#), ICoF Community Foundations Services Coordinator.

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## Upcoming Trainings & Events

### June Peer Learning Call: Economic and Community Development

Wednesday, June 10 | 10 am | Conference Call

Join your colleagues to learn about creative ways your community foundation can participate in community and economic development activities in your area. Learn from rural development experts about what is currently happening in Iowa and also from colleagues who have formed strategic partnerships for the betterment of their communities.

[Learn more and register here!](#)

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## COVID-19 Response Resources Available

The ICoF has created a hub for the philanthropic response to the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the state of Iowa. This site includes a Response Fund listing as well as resources available to assist funders in the response to the pandemic in their community. *If you have opened a fund that is not on the list, please let us know.*

## AmeriCorps Positions Available Soon

Volunteer Iowa and the Iowa Economic Development Authority Center for Rural Revitalization are making dozens of AmeriCorps positions available at no cost to local organizations active in COVID-19 recovery efforts or struggling with the effects of COVID-19. Initially, at least seventy 2-3 month full time positions running from June through August are being created, but they will consider expanding the program if needs are present. Please complete the survey linked below by COB May 6th to indicate interest in hosting an AmeriCorps volunteer and to learn more!

[Indicate interest and learn more here!](#)

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## CF Stories Blog

Honoring the heroes in our communities is important to do during this time when so many are doing so much to keep our communities safe. Recently Charla Schafer, Executive Director of the **Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine**, shared her thoughts on the *Everyday Heroes* in her community.

[Read this month's blog here!](#)

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## Learning Opportunities

### Strengthening Cyber Security for Foundations and Nonprofit Partners

*Council on Foundations*

Thursday, May 7 | 1 - 2 pm | FREE Webinar

COVID-19 has revealed the inadequacies of many foundation and nonprofit virtual strategies. Having an up-to-date cyber-security strategy is key to ensuring your foundation's ability to respond to this ongoing crisis while enabling and empowering your nonprofit partners' to accomplish their missions. Foundations of all shapes and sizes need a robust strategy to cope with the

role in building a philanthropic sector that can endure new technologies and new threats.

[Learn more and register here!](#)

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## Peer Pointers

This section of the CF Snapshot features short descriptions of positive work happening at community foundations and affiliates across Iowa. If you'd like more information about these topics, please [contact Michele](#).

As community foundations and affiliates around the state continue to respond to the needs in their communities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we're learning that there is no "one size fits all" for how best to address the needs. Below is an overview of how two affiliates of the **Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines** structured their response efforts:

- The **Dallas County Community Foundation** worked with their Host to identify which of their endowed funds could make grants to their county food pantries. They identified two funds and were able to make six grants of \$3,000 each to their food pantries, which matched grants made by a local family foundation. These grants were made by a unanimous decision by their board who previously had never made a grant outside their normal granting cycle!
  - The **Humboldt County Community Foundation** formed their grant response fund by first contributing \$54,000 from their endowment. Next, they reached out to their local hospital to determine what the greatest needs were. The board formed a task force to review grant requests, which includes community leaders in addition to a few board members. They made their first grant to the hospital for \$38,000 for PPE and oxygen sharing equipment. They have condensed their grant application process to make it easier for organizations to apply and will continue to review requests and grant funds in the near future.
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## Community Foundations in the News

[Continuity grants to nonprofits responding to immediate needs.](#)

[The Community Foundation of Johnson County received a \\$25K grant from US bank to support their COVID-19 response efforts.](#)

[The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa's support of their local food bank received mention in national article by Newsweek.](#)

[The Fort Dodge Community Foundation recently launched a project to document their community's history on an interactive website.](#)

[In collaboration with the Iowa West Foundation, the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation awarded \\$300K from their COVID-19 Relief Fund.](#)

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## Articles & Items of Interest

### Candid COVID-19 Data Collection

Candid is collecting organizations' funding efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please submit your COVID-19 grantmaking data so Candid can include it on their public map. You can access their website and share your data [here](#).

### USDA Federal Rural Resource Guide

The United States Department of Agriculture recently released the COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide. This guide provides information regarding federal programs available to assist rural communities throughout the pandemic response and recovery efforts. Access the guide [here](#).

### GEO Promotes Smarter Grantmaking Practices

Grantmakers for Effective Organizations (GEO) thinks the most important questions grantmakers should be asking center around how you can change your practices to be of greater service to your grantees and others serving communities during this time of crisis and beyond. Read the full article [here](#).

### Empower Rural Iowa Initiative Grants Available

[Rural Innovation Grants and Rural Housing Assessment Grants](#) are open and on [www.iowagrants.gov](http://www.iowagrants.gov) with a June 5 deadline.

[Benefits \(GSB\) Survey](#). Those who participate will have access to benchmarking information through ICoF once the report is published. The Council encourages grantmakers to take a moment to share their intentions by logging into the survey and selecting "We WILL participate" or "We will NOT participate" on the first page of the survey. [The survey closes on May 31.](#)

### **Grant Opportunity from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs**

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs arts and cultural grants and designation opportunities are open. Application [deadlines run through June 1](#) for grants, fellowships, and other opportunities relating to history, historic preservation, arts, film/media, and community development programs. Learn more [here](#).

### **Career Center Postings**

To view the most up-to-date career postings for positions in philanthropy throughout the state, please visit [the ICoF's Career Center](#).

### **Washington Snapshot**

The most recent issue of the Council of Foundations' *Washington Snapshot* can be accessed [here](#).

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